



## Klamath Network Featured Creature

### May 2009

### *Lorquin's Admiral* (*Limenitis lorquini*)

#### FIELD NOTES:

##### General Description:

The Lorquin's Admiral is part of the Nymphalidae family. This butterfly, as viewed from above, is dark brownish-black with broad white bands crossing through the center of the forewings and hindwings and has orange bands extending along the forewing tip. From below, it has a complex pattern of blue-gray, orange-brown, and white bands and chevrons. As a small caterpillar, they are mottled olive and tan with light and dark stripes, resembling bird droppings.

##### Similar Species:

Lorquin's Admiral is often mistaken for a California Sister (*Adelpha californica*). Their ranges overlap throughout most of California and western Oregon. They may be found flying together; however, neither will be far from their respective host plants (oaks for the California Sister).

##### Life History:

Single eggs are laid on the leaf tips of host plants, including willows, aspen, spiraea, cottonwood, serviceberry, ocean spray, apple, and cherry. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of the host plant and can build mummy-bags of rolled leaves and silk to hibernate in over winter. The adult butterflies emerge in one to three broods in the Klamath Network area: in cooler climates they have only one brood and in warmer climates they can have three. Adult Lorquin's Admirals feed on the nectar of dogbane, mustards, yarrow, thistles, and rotting fruit. They also visit mud puddles and animal dung to gain essential nutrients. Males are highly territorial and patrol around host plants. These butterflies are on the wing in the Klamath Network region from April through October.



*Photo by Joseph H. Smith, Interpretation Ranger at Redwood National and State Parks, taken at Lava Beds National Monument.*



*Photo by Jennifer Tiehm, Biological Science Technician at Lava Beds National Monument, taken at Lava Beds National Monument.*

##### Where to See It in the Klamath Parks:

The Lorquin's Admiral is common in all six of the Klamath Network parks.

##### More Information:

Butterflies and Moths of North America:  
<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org>

##### Habitat:

The Lorquin's Admiral occupies a wide range of habitats including both urban and natural settings. It can be seen in urban parks and gardens, roadsides, forest edges, ditches, streams, rivers, canyons, gullies, and lakeshores.

##### Distribution:

The range of Lorquin's Admiral extends along the Pacific Coast from Baja California Sur, through Baja California Norte, California, Oregon, and Washington, to southern British Columbia. Its range extends inland to include all of Baja California, all of California, northern Nevada, all of Oregon, all of Washington, the chimney of Idaho and far western Montana.

##### What's in a Name?

The group of butterflies called Admirals refers to the wing band patterns that resemble stripes of military rank.

The Lorquin's Admiral was named after Pierre Joseph Michel Lorquin (ca. 1800 – 1877). He was a lawyer, gold prospector and naturalist in California during the gold-rush era. He sent the butterfly specimens he collected in California to the great lepidopterist Jean Baptiste Boisduval. Boisduval described and named this butterfly after Lorquin in 1852.